

Minutes  
Bartholomew County Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 21, 2022  
Board Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was held by combination of on site and virtual attendance (Zoom). The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Gron.

Present on site: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Laura Hack, Stephen Shipley, Billie Whitted, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Angela Eck, Assistant Director; Michelle Williams, Business Services Coordinator. Mike Mclver, Attorney.

Present via Zoom: Vern Jorck

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Shipley moved and Wilkerson seconded approval of the February 14, 2022 meeting as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 92 through 174 in the amount of \$507,926.41 were reviewed. Hatton noted that the total was higher than normal due to the meeting being moved back a week. There are three payrolls on this claims list. He made note of the following claims: Claim 106 to FastSign for the Storywalk boards. Claim 144 to BookPoints for Summer Reading. Claim 146 to HK for repairs to the generator on the Bookmobile. Claim 150 to Louis Joyner for continued services for the ongoing renovations. Claim 164 to Stratosphere for regular monitoring services, but also for tablets and Chromebooks. Claim 166 to Tierney Brothers for a SmartBoard. He noted that this will be covered in part through a reimbursable ISL/ARPA grant. Claim 170 to Zeller Insurance is for the annual Workers Comp audit and policy. Hack moved and Frazier seconded approval to pay Claims 92 through 174 in the amount of \$507,926.41. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Discussion

A. Community Read-In. Shipley and Whitted started the discussion about the Read-In and the reasons behind it. The concern was whether the event was political in nature and held as an anti-legislation gathering. Hatton said the event was strictly one to support of libraries, educators, and the freedom to read. Shipley said he appreciated Mclver's legal opinion on the event. He also stressed how important it was to discuss Mclver's recommendations in the adoption of programming policies - legality versus perception.

Whitted expressed her concern over the perception of impropriety and that pictures in the media made it look like the library was promoting a political event. She said the need for a written policy was vital for transparency as we handle similar events and programming in the

future. McIver added that whatever direction the Board goes, we have to have a written policy as Hatton has proposed at this meeting. He said we have general guidelines, but they are most likely more applicable to outside groups more than BCPL.

Shipleigh asked for clarification that the Read-In was specifically not anti-SB17. Hatton said that was correct, it was not anti-SB17, but that we can't control what the media says. Shipleigh agreed that the newspaper was misleading regarding the aim of the event, underlining the need for transparency and written policy.

Whitted expressed concerns about the new Zine collection. She stated that they contained some pretty rough language and many prominently said "Queer" on the cover. She specifically wanted to make sure that since they had our stamp on the back that the public would not misconstrue that as the library's endorsement of the content. Hatton stated that the stamp is a possession stamp that is placed on all of our materials. Just as we do not endorse every idea or statement in other materials, we do not claim to justify every Zine.

Whitted also had questions regarding the Body Dysmorphia program being offered by North High School HOSA club. She wanted to make sure that we were not having program that involved minors dispensing medical advice. Hatton stated that this was not the case and it was simply a group of students presenting some information they have learned. It is similar to a student giving a book report. Whitted continued to express concerns about these types of programs and whether we needed to make it clear that the library does not endorse all content in a program. Hack stated that the library is simply the venue and not in charge of the content presented. She considers it similar to a presentation on diabetes given by her son who has that disease.

B. New policies. Following further discussion, Gron said that all were in agreement regarding the need to adopt a policy for the Plaza and programming. Hack asked if we consider policies from other libraries. Hatton answered that we are looking at other libraries for language, etc. and that he hoped to have a draft for the Board at the April Board meeting. He asked all Board Members to contact him with suggestions for specific details or language they would like to have taken into consideration.

C. Strategic planning. Hatton discussed the current Strategic plan, which was reaffirmed in 2019. He said now is a good time to re-visit our plan. He said that he has contacted three groups/firms specializing in library strategic planning and had a response from two of them. He said he would be attending the PLA conference and hoped to have more information afterward. He said the plan should stress community involvement and that he has applied to Heritage Fund for a grant to help with costs.

D. Facilities Update. Hatton discussed the recommendations from Louis Joyner regarding repairs at Hope Branch. He said the recommendations are for repair/replace on the windowsills and window wells as well as the canopies/frames. Frazier asked if the repairs could be done without removing the windows. Hack asked further, if the windows themselves are ok. Hatton answered that the repairs can be done with the windows in place and that they are in good shape.

Hatton gave an update on the Red Room. The carpet is scheduled to be installed beginning 3/24, followed by the controllers and the projection system. He said we have scheduled the Ribbon-cutting for 4/7 at 4:30 pm. Due to delays in delivery, the doors may not be here until mid-June. He also discussed the Conference Room renovation. He said we are considering rubber tile and showed samples of the floor coverings. The tiles are in squares so

they can be replaced if damaged/as needed. He discussed the pros and cons of such material, including the cost, longevity vs carpet, and warranties.

Action Items

None.

Public Comment – 10 minutes

Tyler Henkle of Indiana Regional Prevention System gave a short presentation on the services offered through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. Hatton said he would share the information with our Outreach department.

New Business

Reminder of the next Board Meeting on April 11.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Attested:

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Billie Whitted, Secretary

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Gary Gron, President